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presents

Nani made nara Koroseru?

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THE VALUE OF A LIFE SYNTHESIZED BY GENIUSES.

NISIO ISIN

"BOOKMOUGATARI"
(PUBLISHED BY KODANSHA)
ON SALE NOW

IKEDA AKIHISA

"ROSARIO AND VAMPIRE" ALL 10 VOLUMES
"ROSARIO AND VAMPIRE SEASON II" ALL 14 VOLUMES
(IN SALE NOW)

HEY, KYUU-CHAN,
KYUU-CHAN.
THE GIRL SAID.
UNTIL WHAT WILL YOU KEEP ON KILLING?
SMILE
...EH...?

ANTS, SPIDERS... IF THEY'RE BUGS...
ANYONE COULD EASILY GO "POP" AND KILL THEM, RIGHT?
BUT IF IT BECOMES A FISH-SAN WHEN IT'S TIME TO KILL, I GET A "DON'T WANNA" FEELING.
I START TO FEEL A RESISTANCE TO TAKING A LIFE.
MORE THAN THE FISH-SAN, WHEN IT'S TIME TO KILL AMPHIBIAN-SAN, I DON'T WANT TO.
AND MORE THAN AMPHIBIAN-SAN, WHEN IT'S TIME TO KILL REPTILE-SAN, I DON'T WANT TO.
AND EVEN MORE THAN REPTILE-SAN, WHEN IT'S TIME TO KILL BIRD-SAN, I DON'T WANT TO.
EVEN MORE THAN BIRD-SAN, WHEN IT'S TIME TO KILL MAMMAL-SAN, I DON'T WANT TO.
AS THE BEING GETS HIGHER IN THE EVOLUTIONARY LINE, *I BECOME LESS AND LESS WILLING TO KILL IT.*

SURELY THE NUMBER ONE HIGHEST HURDLE... WOULD BE HUMANS.
SOME-WHERE, AN OVERWHELMING HURDLE MEETS ME.
AND WITH EACH ONE,
IF I'M UNABLE TO BRING MYSELF TO KILL ANY OF THOSE EARLIER THINGS, THEN...
ゴクッ。。

UNTIL WHAT WOULD REIKA-CHAN KILL?
...WHAT ABOUT REIKA-CHAN?

ME? I COULD...
KILL UP UNTIL A DOG.
IT MIGHT NOT BE BECAUSE WE HAD THAT CONVERSATION, BUT
AFTER THAT, THE "REIKA FROM BACK THEN" AND I GREW DISTANT—
SHE MIGHT NOT LAUGH AND SHRUG IT OFF AS A JOKE.
EVEN IF I TRY TO PASS IT OFF AS A FUNNY JOKE,
—"I COULD KILL UP TO A MONKEY." IF I SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT,

AHH... SO TIRED.
...I'M OFF.
RATHER, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A WHILE, I THOUGHT ABOUT THOSE DAYS.
THAT WAS ABOUT TEN YEARS AGO...
HOWEVER... NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, WHY DID THAT GIRL SUDDENLY START TALKING TO ME ABOUT THAT...
.....
..SOMEHOW, THAT KILLED MY MOOD... SHOULD I GO TO THE GAME CENTER TO FORGET ABOUT IT...?
!

CLATTER
CLATTER
OH MY, KYUU-CHAN.
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME.

...REIKA-CHAN, IT'S BEEN A WHI-...
HEH
PERFECT TIMING, YOU WILL BE A BIG HELP.
HOLD THIS FOR A BIT AND COME.
!?
HEAVY... WHAT'S INSIDE THIS!?
WAH...!? WAIT UP!
A DOG'S CORPSE.

YESTERDAY... THE DOG I HAD BEEN KEEPING DIED.
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD A DOG.
SO THEN SHE... IT WAS AROUND THE TIME WHEN SHE FIRST GOT THE DOG THAT SHE SAID SHE COULD KILL UP UNTIL A DOG.
SHE'S FAR FROM BEING JUST A LITTLE WEIRD...
YOU SEE... I WAS A BIT OF AN ODD CHILD, AND ONLY KYUU-CHAN WAS ON GOOD TERMS WITH ME.
WORRYING ABOUT THAT, TEN OR SO YEARS AGO, MY PAPA BOUGHT ME A DOG AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR FRIENDS.
EVER SINCE HE WAS BROUGHT INTO THE HOUSE, WE WERE ALWAYS TOGETHER.
BUT LAST NIGHT, HE FINALLY DIED OF NATURAL CAUSES...
IF... IF THE DOG WAS TEN-SOMETHING YEARS OLD, THEN IT LIVED A PRETTY LONG LIFE, HUH?
BUT IF IT WAS A NATURAL DEATH, I'M RELIEVED... FOR A SECOND I THOUGHT SHE REALLY KILLED IT.
はぁ

THE TRUTH IS... I THOUGHT ABOUT KILLING IT.
!?
HIS LEGS BECAME SO WEAK THAT HE WASN'T ABLE TO WALK.
HIS TEETH HAD FALLEN OUT, SO HE COULDN'T EAT ANYTHING OUTSIDE OF A LIQUID DIET, BUT EVEN DRINKING WATER SEEMED TO BE PAINFUL.
HE WENT BLIND AND COULDN'T EVEN RECOGNIZE ME ANYMORE.
I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY TIMES I THOUGHT ABOUT MAKING THINGS EASIER FOR HIM...
BUT I COULDN'T KILL HIM.
I WONDER IF I DIDN'T LOVE HIM ENOUGH... EVEN THOUGH, LOGICALLY, I UNDERSTOOD THAT I MUST KILL HIM,
I DIDN'T WANT TO KILL HIM.
RUSTLE
RUSTLE RUSTLE

IS THIS OKAY...? TO JUST DIG A HOLE AND BURY HIM WITHOUT PERMISSION...
IF WE'RE FOUND OUT, PEOPLE WILL GET ANGRY AT US.
DIG
BACK WHEN THE DOG WAS STILL WELL, WE USED TO COME HERE A LOT TO PLAY.
IT'S FOR THE SAKE OF THE DOG THAT WAS MY FRIEND FOR OVER TEN YEARS.
I'D AT LEAST WANT TO TRY OVERCOMING THIS SORT OF HURDLE.
!!!
KYUU-CHAN, DO YOU REMEMBER THAT CONVERSATION WE HAD BACK THEN?
HEY— REIKA-CHAN, THAT CONVERSATION WE HAD BACK THEN...
DIG
DIG
HURDLE...

AHH, MY BAD. WHAT KIND OF CONVERSATION WAS IT?
.....
I TAKE THAT BACK... BECAUSE FROM THE START, IT WAS SOMEWHAT OF A JOKE.
IF WE TALK ABOUT THAT, THEN... AFTER THAT CONVERSATION, KYUU-CHAN STOPPED PLAYING WITH ME.
THE ONE ABOUT, "UNTIL WHAT WILL YOU KEEP ON KILLING"?
THAT WAS A JOKE!? THAT'S NOT FUNNY.
LI...
SO I SAID STRANGE THINGS TO IMPRESS YOU.
BACK THEN, DIDN'T I LIKE KYUU-CHAN?
WITH THOSE FEELINGS, I CARED FOR HIM, NURSED HIM, AND...
PROBABLY EXTENDED HIS LIFESPAN.
Like?
Shit
OR... AS EXPECTED, IT WAS A JOKE, HUH
IF I SAY LIKED, WHO I TRULY LIKED WAS MY DOG.
NO, LIKE I THOUGHT, I DON'T THINK THERE WAS ENOUGH LOVE.
FUFU... BUT IT'S MYSTERIOUS.
?

WHY COULDN'T I GIVE HIM DEATH?
HOWEVER, EVEN THOUGH I WAS ABLE TO GIVE HIM LIFE...
YEAH. NORMAL.
NORMALLY... HUMANS AREN'T ABLE TO KILL THE THINGS THAT THEY'VE GROWN TO LIKE.
...IT'S NORMAL, ISN'T IT?
YOU'RE A MORE DECENT GUY THAN I THOUGHT.
I'M SOMEWHAT DISAPPOINTED...

THANK YOU, KYUU-CHAN. I'M SORRY FOR SHOWING YOU AN UNSIGHTLY DISPLAY.
BY THE WAY,
WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO LATELY? SOMEHOW THE ATMOSPHERE SEEMS TO HAVE BECOME UN-PLEASANT...
UNPLEASANT? IT'S OKAY TO JUST SAY IT
THAT IT GOT RUINED.
HMM, I'VE ALSO HAD A LOT GOING ON.
EVERYTHING WAS FINE UNTIL I WENT TO A PRIVATE MIDDLE SCHOOL.
THERE, I STOPPED STUDYING AND ENDED UP QUITTING ONCE I GOT TO THE HIGH SCHOOL SECTION
THAT'S WHY, EVEN THOUGH I'M THIS OLD, I'M NOT FAMILIAR WITH HIGH SCHOOL
AFTER THAT, I FELL INTO A SLUMP... I GUESS THIS IS WHAT IT MEANS TO BE DOWN AND OUT.
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, THE TIME I PLAYED WITH REIKA-CHAN IN THE SANDPIT
MIGHT HAVE BEEN THE PEAK OF MY LIFE.
IF I HAVE TO PUT UP WITH THIS FOR TEN MORE YEARS, THEN I'LL GET SERIOUSLY FED UP.
WHY DO I HAVE TO CONTINUE LIVING IN MY LIFE OF FAILURES?

……?
……
…
KYUU-CHAN
…
AH, THAT'S RIGHT… KILLING A HUMAN, THE NUMBER ONE MOST UNPLEASANT THING!!!
ぎゅ
SOMETHING LIKE THAT IS JUST A PRECON-CEPTION.
IF I THINK ABOUT IT, A HUMAN BEING ISN'T SOME SORT OF HIGH-CLASS CREATURE.
EH…?

A DOG WAS IMPOSSIBLE,
BUT MAYBE I CAN GO UP UNTIL A HUMAN.

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WHILE I WAS LOSING CONSCIOUSNESS, I LAUGHED.
BECAUSE AT LEAST THE FEELINGS OF REIKA-CHAN, WHO SAID SHE LIKED ME, WEREN'T A JOKE.
BY THE WAY,
UNTIL WHAT WILL YOU KEEP ON KILLING?

TL: UNTIL WHAT WILL YOU KEEP ON KILLING?

THE HURDLE IS WITHIN EACH ONE...

「何までなら殺せる?」

(UNTIL WHAT WILL YOU KEEP ON KILLING?) / END